CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method for graphically presenting data, said method

5   comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

a)   receiving said data, wherein said data comprises a plurality of
records, each record of said plurality of records having a plurality of
attributes;

b)   determining a first attribute selected from said plurality of

10   attributes, a second attribute selected from said plurality of attributes and a
third attribute selected from said plurality of attributes, wherein said first
attribute and said second attribute are different attributes of said plurality of
attributes;

c)   arranging said plurality of records to construct a graphically

15   displayable array, said graphically displayable array comprising a plurality of
data points, each of said data points representing one record of said
plurality of records wherein said first attribute corresponds to a first axis,
said second attribute corresponds to a second axis, and said third attribute
corresponds to a visual indicator.

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2.   A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said step c)
comprises the steps of:

c1)   sorting said plurality of records according to said first attribute and dividing said plurality of records into groups according to said first attribute;

c2)   sorting said records of each of said groups according to

5   said second attribute; and

c3)   sorting said records of each horizontal line of each of said groups according to said third attribute.

3.   A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said third attribute is

10   different than both said first attribute and said second attribute.

4.   A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein each said data point is represented by a pixel on a display, wherein a location of said pixel is defined by said first attribute corresponding to said first axis and said

15   second attribute corresponding to said second axis.

5.   A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said first axis is a horizontal axis.

20   6.   A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said second axis is a vertical axis.

7.   A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said visual indicator is a color.

8.   A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein selection of one said

5   data point allows for accessing said plurality of attributes of a corresponding said record.

9.   A method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said selection of one said data point is performed by moving a cursor over said data point to

10   access said plurality of attributes of said record.

10.   A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein selection of a subset of data points allows for accessing said plurality of attributes of said records corresponding to selected said data points.

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11.   A method as recited in Claim 10 wherein said selection of said subset of said data point is performed by moving a cursor over said area to access said plurality of attributes of said record.

20   12.   A computer system comprising:

a bus;

a display device coupled to said bus;

a computer-readable memory coupled to said bus; and

a processor coupled to said bus; said processor for executing a

method for graphically presenting data, said method comprising the steps

of:

a)   receiving said data, wherein said data comprises a plurality of

5   records, each record of said plurality of records having a plurality of

attributes;

b)   determining a first attribute selected from said plurality of

attributes, a second attribute selected from said plurality of attributes and a

third attribute selected from said plurality of attributes, wherein said first

10   attribute and said second attribute are different attributes of said plurality of

attributes;

c)   arranging said plurality of records to construct a graphically

displayable array, said graphically displayable array comprising a plurality of

data points, each of said data points representing one record of said

15   plurality of records wherein said first attribute corresponds to a first axis,

said second attribute corresponds to a second axis, and said third attribute

corresponds to a visual indicator.

13.   A computer system as recited in Claim 12 wherein said step c)

20   comprises the steps of:

c1)   sorting said plurality of records according to said first

attribute and dividing said plurality of records into groups according to

said first attribute;

c2)   sorting said records of each of said groups according to said second attribute; and

c3)   sorting said records of each horizontal line of each of said groups according to said third attribute.

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14.   A computer system as recited in Claim 12 wherein said third attribute is different than both said first attribute and said second attribute.

15.   A computer system as recited in Claim 12 wherein each said

10   data point is represented by a pixel on a display, wherein a location of said pixel is defined by said first attribute corresponding to said first axis and said second attribute corresponding to said second axis.

16.   A computer system as recited in Claim 12 wherein said first

15   axis is a horizontal axis.

17.   A computer system as recited in Claim 12 wherein said second axis is a vertical axis.

20   18.   A computer system as recited in Claim 12 wherein said visual indicator is a color.

19.   A computer system as recited in Claim 12 wherein selection of one said data point allows for accessing said plurality of attributes of a corresponding said record.

5   20.   A computer system as recited in Claim 19 wherein said selection of one said data point is performed by moving a cursor over said data point to access said plurality of attributes of said record.

21.   A computer system as recited in Claim 12 wherein selection of

10   a subset of data points allows for accessing said plurality of attributes of said records corresponding to selected said data points.

22.   A computer system as recited in Claim 21 wherein said selection of said subset of said data point is performed by moving a cursor

15   over said area to access said plurality of attributes of said record.

23.   A computer readable medium having a computer-readable program code embodied therein for causing a computer system to perform the steps of:

20   a)   receiving data, wherein said data comprises a plurality of records, each record of said plurality of records having a plurality of attributes;

b)   determining a first attribute selected from said plurality of attributes, a second attribute selected from said plurality of attributes and a third attribute selected from said plurality of attributes, wherein said first attribute and said second attribute are different attributes of said plurality of

5   attributes;

c)   arranging said plurality of records to construct a graphically displayable array, said graphically displayable array comprising a plurality of data points, each of said data points representing one record of said plurality of records wherein said first attribute corresponds to a first axis,

10   said second attribute corresponds to a second axis, and said third attribute corresponds to a visual indicator.

24.   A computer readable medium as recited in Claim 1 wherein said step c) comprises the steps of:

15   c1)   sorting said plurality of records according to said first attribute and dividing said plurality of records into groups according to said first attribute;

c2)   sorting said records of each of said groups according to said second attribute; and

20   c3)   sorting said records of each horizontal line of each of said groups according to said third attribute.

25.   A computer readable medium as recited in Claim 24 wherein said third attribute is different than both said first attribute and said second attribute.

5   26.   A computer readable medium as recited in Claim 24 wherein each said data point is represented by a pixel on a display, wherein a location of said pixel is defined by said first attribute corresponding to said first axis and said second attribute corresponding to said second axis.

10   27.   A computer readable medium as recited in Claim 24 wherein said first axis is a horizontal axis.

28.   A computer readable medium as recited in Claim 24 wherein said second axis is a vertical axis.

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29.   A computer readable medium as recited in Claim 24 wherein said visual indicator is a color.

30.   A computer readable medium as recited in Claim 24 wherein

20   selection of one said data point allows for accessing said plurality of attributes of a corresponding said record.

31.   A computer readable medium as recited in Claim 30 wherein said selection of one said data point is performed by moving a cursor over said data point to access said plurality of attributes of said record.

5   32.   A computer readable medium as recited in Claim 24 wherein selection of a subset of data points allows for accessing said plurality of attributes of said records corresponding to selected said data points.

33.   A computer readable medium as recited in Claim 32 wherein
10   said selection of said subset of said data point is performed by moving a cursor over said area to access said plurality of attributes of said record.